1	2Karimnagar HO

5. Daba Gardens LSG PO
6. L B Colony SO
7. Nizambad RS LSG PO
8. D H Satun SO

Effect of private telecom operators on teledensity

747.SHRIT.T.V DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the teledensity in the country has gone up as a result of allowing private operators in communication network;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the percentage of coverage of rural areas by private operators out of their total communication coverage in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The entry of private operators in telecom sector was allowed with the announcement of National Telecom Policy-1994 (NTP--94). The overall teledensity which was only 0.89% then has risen continuously and has touched 11.76% as on 31.01.2006.

(c) The coverage of rural areas by private operators is almost negligible on account of non-viability of the operations. However, they have provided a total ST'^OS Rural Diirect Exchange Lines (RDELs), 9641 Village Public Telephones (VPTs) and 6119 Rural Community Phones (RCPs) Under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) as on 31.12.2005.

Elimination of access deficit charges

748. SHRI C. RAMACHANIDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Reguljitory Authority of India (TRAI) has mooted a three-stage process to elimtinate the Access Deficit Charges (ADCs) regime by 2008-09;

(b) if so, the details thereof;